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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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CARPET WOOL SITUATION
October 1929

The Boston market for carpet wool has been quiet with most sales to meet immediate requirements but prices are generally higher than a year ago, according to the Boston Wool Office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The consumption of carpet wool in the United States during August, as reported by the Bureau of the Census, was about $13\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds or more than two million pounds above the monthly average for 1928. Carpet and rug looms reported increased activity for August due to the opening of the new season. Imports of carpet wools for the first 9 months of 1929 were about 22 per cent greater than in the same period last year.

Stocks of wool in Chinese ports are small owing to poor transportation facilities and to the diversion of Mongolian trade through Russia. Only small amounts of Sining wool are available and the new clip is not expected to arrive at Tientsin in quantity until November. However, demand from America has been small owing to high local prices.

The quantity of wool catalogued at the East India wool sales held at Liverpool September 9-13 was less than is usual for the September series. There was a good attendance of American, British and Continental buyers and competition was good, especially for clean medium wools. America was the principal purchaser and took 8,000 bales of wool. Of the 22,315 bales catalogued, 3,457 bales were held over for the next auctions which are scheduled to open October 22.

Prices at Boston unchanged

The market for carpet wools at Boston has been quiet and prices have shown very little change in the last few months. Most purchases have been to meet immediate requirements. In general, average prices for September are higher than in September 1928, with Awassi and Karadi wools 3 cents above last year, Angora and Aleppo wools 2 cents higher, Mongolian washed wools 1 cent higher and with Chinese wool and Scotch blackface selling about the same as last year. The price of Jorias and Vicaneres is 3 cents under last year but prices are not strictly comparable because since the first of March 1929 both of these wools have been reported as dirty.

CARPET WOOLS: Average price per pound at Boston, 1924-1929

Year and month	Aleppo and washed	Angora	China No. 1	Mon- golian	Wil- lowed	Urga washed	Awassi Karadi washed	Scotch black- face	Vican- ere scour- ed	Jorias scour- ed
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Sept.										
1924:	32	20	24	22	30	31	24	-	74	
1925:	41	23	33	30	40	38	29	-	66	
1926:	33	19	26	23	30	33	22	-	67	
1927:	38	24	30	31	36	39	26	-	68	
1928: ^{a/}	36	24	28	26	35	^{a/} 35	26	64	63	
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
1929	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Jan.	36	24	28	27	36	36	26	66	66	
Feb.	37	25	28	27	36	36	27	65	65	
Mar.	38	26	28	27	36	38	27	61	62	
Apr.	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	61	60	
May	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	61	60	
June	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	61	60	
July	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	61	60	
Aug.	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	61	60	
Sept.	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	61	60	
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from weekly quotations in the Boston Commercial Bulletin.

^{a/} 80 per cent yield.

Carpet wool imports greater than last year

Imports of carpet wools into the United States from January 1 to September 1, 1929 amounted to 117 million pounds as compared with 96 million pounds last year. This is an increase of nearly 22 per cent over 1928. China continues to be the principal source of carpet wools and during the first 8 months of 1929 supplied over 40 million pounds or 34 per cent of our total imports. Argentina and the United Kingdom (largely Indian wool) each furnished over 19 million pounds and India supplied about 12 million pounds direct.

Imports of carpet wools during August amounted to 13,206,000 pounds compared with 9,762,000 during August 1928 and 14,996,000 pounds during July 1929. Imports during August were greater than for any August in the last 10 years except in August 1925 when 14,539,000 pounds were imported.

The following tables show the imports of carpet wools into the United States by countries and by months.

CARPET WOOLS: Imports into the United States, by countries, 1922-1929

Year	United	China	King-	India	Syria-	Argen-	France	Italy	All	Total
	: dom	: dom	: dom	: dom	Palestine	tina	: dom	: dom	others	: dom
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
1922	: 61,563	: 65,651	: 2,923	: 2,495			: 10,320	: 5,942	: 6,577	: 17,594
1923	: 51,449	: 33,488	: 4,120	: 3,131			: 9,122	: 4,139	: 3,638	: 13,312
1924	: 65,698	: 39,179	: 3,458	: 5,912			: 7,356	: 3,061	: 2,853	: 13,443
1925	: 63,761	: 46,573	: 8,330	: 7,219			: 7,003	: 3,620	: 3,374	: 18,091
1926	: 22,871	: 46,768	: 5,505	: 6,831			: 8,337	: 3,991	: 4,553	: 16,665
1927	: 48,275	: 39,062	: 9,294	: 8,478			: 10,000	: 5,013	: 3,495	: 20,639
1928	: 54,206	: 32,981	: 12,013	: 9,998			: 9,177	: 5,505	: 4,071	: 21,377
1929										
Jan.	: 5,647	: 2,170	: 724	: 567			: 2,579	: 190	: 202	: 2,690
Feb.	: 6,984	: 2,146	: 1,796	: 485			: 3,444	: 519	: 268	: 1,803
Mar.	: 6,374	: 3,463	: 350	: 319			: 4,602	: 397	: 308	: 2,392
Apr.	: 5,374	: 2,567	: 1,961	: 607			: 3,060	: 511	: 224	: 1,508
May	: 3,646	: 2,776	: 1,291	: 258			: 1,208	: 189	: 297	: 1,542
June	: 4,580	: 1,591	: 1,871	: 258			: 1,205	: 149	: 316	: 998
July	: 4,639	: 1,142	: 2,328	: 22,120			: 1,832	: 486	: 416	: 2,033
Aug.	: 3,033	: 3,476	: 1,283	: 1,040			: 1,386	: 649	: 250	: 2,089
Total										
8 mos.										
1929	: 40,277	: 19,331	: 11,604	: 5,654			: 19,316	: 3,090	: 2,281	: 15,055
Total										
8 mos.										
1928	: 41,620	: 18,034	: 9,169	: 4,257			: 7,005	: 3,689	: 2,529	: 9,666

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from Summary of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, monthly.

A preliminary report received from R. L. Burrus of the Boston Wool Office states that the imports of carpet wools into the ports of Boston, New York and Philadelphia from January 1 to September 28, 1929 amounted to 126 million pounds compared with 106 million pounds for the first 9 months of 1928.

Stocks

held

Stocks in the United States lower

Stocks of carpet wools, tops and noils, in the United States or afloat to the United States, held by dealers and manufacturers on July 1, 1929 amounted to 49 million pounds as follows: combing wools 15,130,746 pounds; filling wools 32,629,717 pounds; tops 963,577 pounds; and noils 463,162 pounds. This includes stocks held in bonded warehouses and 5,166,636 pounds of wool, tops and noils afloat to the United States.

The stocks of carpet wools in the grease on July 1, 1929 amounted to over 44 million pounds compared with 48 million pounds on April 1, 1929, 45 million pounds on July 1, 1928 and a five-year average for July 1924-1928 of 43 million pounds.

Stocks of carpet wool tops and noils held by dealers and manufacturers in the United States, July 22-April 1929

Date	: Grease	: Scoured	: Pulled	: Tops and noils
	: 1,000 pounds	: 1,000 pounds	: 1,000 pounds	: 1,000 pounds
1928 -	:	:	:	:
Jan 1	: 39,965	: 1,513	: 1,681	: 1,386
Apr 1	: 36,997	: 2,651	: 1,778	: 1,437
July 1	: 44,681	: 3,295	: 1,512	: 1,726
Oct 1	: 43,251	: 2,024	: 983	: 1,809
1929 -	:	:	:	:
Jan 1	: 41,871	: 1,544	: 1,391	: 1,368
Apr 1	: 48,476	: 1,363	: 1,868	: 1,233
July 1	: 44,101	: 1,832	: 1,828	: 1,427

Compiled from the Wool Stock Report issued jointly by the United States Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Commerce.

Wool machinery more active in August

The activity of carpet and rug looms during August was considerably greater than during July. The number of carpet and rug looms reported in August was 9,752, of which 6,309 were in operation at some time during the month, and 3,443 were idle throughout the month, according to the Bureau of the Census. Expressed as a percentage of the maximum single-shift capacity of carpet and rug looms during August was 66 per cent as compared with 61 per cent during July 1929, 63 per cent during August 1928 and a five-year average for August 1924-1928 of 61 per cent.

CARPET AND RUG LOOMS: Activity expressed as percentage of maximum single-shift capacity, by months, 1921-1929

Year	: Jan	: Feb	: Mar	: Apr	: May	: June	: July	: Aug	: Sept	: Oct	: Nov	: Dec
	: Per											
	: cent											
Average -												
1924-1928	: 71	: 72	: 73	: 68	: 63	: 61	: 57	: 61	: 64	: 66	: 70	: 68
1921	: 37	: 36	: 36	: 38	: 44	: 47	: 42	: 57	: 66	: 70	: 73	: 70
1922	: 76	: 77	: 78	: 75	: 76	: 72	: 70	: 77	: 81	: 74	: 84	: 83
1923	: 86	: 82	: 87	: 83	: 86	: 85	: 74	: 80	: 81	: 84	: 85	: 71
1924	: 75	: 76	: 73	: 64	: 54	: 49	: 52	: 57	: 65	: 72	: 78	: 76
1925	: 78	: 81	: 86	: 76	: 73	: 70	: 65	: 68	: 65	: 64	: 69	: 67
1926	: 68	: 70	: 70	: 63	: 57	: 58	: 55	: 60	: 62	: 65	: 67	: 65
1927	: 65	: 64	: 66	: 67	: 67	: 64	: 56	: 57	: 65	: 64	: 67	: 68
1928	: 68	: 67	: 68	: 71	: 65	: 62	: 55	: 63	: 62	: 67	: 68	: 62
1929	: 65	: 67	: 69	: 70	: 72	: 69	: 61	: 66				

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Consumption of carpet wool increases

The consumption of carpetwool during August 1929 amounted to 13,501,254 pounds as against 12,526,038 pounds in July 1929 and 12,592,124 pounds in August 1928, according to the Wool Consumption Report for August 1929 issued by the Bureau of the Census. The August consumption is the highest for any month this year except January and May, and is over 2,000,000 pounds greater than the average monthly consumption during 1928.

During the first 8 months of 1929, a total of 104,706,710 pounds of carpet wool has been consumed as compared with 87,436,571 pounds for the same period in 1928. Most of this increase has been in filling wools, the consumption of which amounts to 73,568,828 pounds this year compared with 57,492,707 pounds last year. Consumption of combing wool this year was 31,137,882 pounds and last year amounted to 29,943,864 pounds.

CARPET WOOL: Consumption in the United States, 1918-1929

Year	Grease			Scoured	Pulled
	Combing	Filling	Total		
	1,000 lbs				
1918	16,414	15,703	32,117	3,954	1,456
1919	24,672	28,747	53,419	5,686	2,545
1920	28,356	28,364	56,720	7,002	2,919
1921	22,968	27,291	50,259	4,777	3,829
1922	58,797	51,664	110,461	6,695	5,679
1923	72,231	63,215	135,446	5,924	8,293
1924	54,042	60,047	114,089	3,655	5,759
1925	56,848	62,037	118,885	3,934	8,991
1926	45,605	56,205	101,810	4,303	12,915
1927	44,755	70,516	115,271	4,894	8,753
1928	43,677	77,760	121,437	6,081	8,308
1929					
Jan	4,515	8,461	12,976	259	900
Feb	3,789	8,525	12,314	261	764
Mar	3,345	7,868	11,213	287	990
Apr	3,436	8,249	11,685	286	911
May	4,329	8,962	13,291	313	630
June	2,969	7,753	10,722	320	558
July	3,431	8,275	11,706	170	650
Aug	3,777	8,756	12,533	243	725

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Chinese wools

Stocks of wool at Tientsin are small owing to a washout on the Peiping-Suiyuan railway which prevented shipment of wools which have been accumulating at Pao-tow, according to a radiogram received October 7 from Consul General Gauss. This railway has now been repaired and shipments of Sining wools are beginning to arrive at Tientsin but no large quantities are expected until November.

Sining wools in the grease are quoted about 26 cents c.i.f. New York but sales are small. Large quantities of Chin-chow and other Mongolian wools were made at 21 to 22 cents but these wools were of poor quality and contained an excessive amount of sand. Recent sales of Ball wools have been made around 29 cents.

Demand from America is small due partly to local prices. Exports from Tientsin to America during September were 264,000 pounds greater than during August and amounted to 1,730,306 pounds as follows: Carding wool in the grease 1,232,507 pounds, washed 200,115 pounds and scoured 176,399 pounds; combing wool in the grease 121,285 pounds. Exports to the United States from Tientsin usually amount to 85 per cent or more of the total shipments from China to America.

East India wool auctions

The sixth series of the East India wool auctions opened at Liverpool on September 9. There was a fair selection of superior Vicaneres and Jorias whites. Average grades of Vicanere, Beawar and Marwar whites and Bombay blacks and grays were plentiful. There was a shortage of yellows of all descriptions. There was a good attendance of American, British and Continental buyers and competition was fairly steady with prices firm to slightly dearer. America was the principal purchaser and took about 8,000 bales.

The following table shows the classes of wool available at the 1929 series of East India wool sales at Liverpool.

EAST INDIA WOOL SALES: Quantity available at Liverpool, by classes, 1929

Date	Whites a/	Yellows	Blacks and grays	All other	Goat hair	Total
	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales
1929						
Jan 15-18	4,961	8,241	2,686	1,679	324	17,891
Mar 4-8	5,638	12,677	5,023	3,523	120	26,980
Apr 22-26	6,173	10,136	5,492	3,190	59	25,050
June 4-7	6,019	5,617	4,315	3,635	195	19,781
July 23-30	12,069	4,546	5,163	6,850	102	28,730
Sept 9-13	9,928	3,435	4,855	4,177	55	22,450
	:	:	:	:	:	:

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Data from Liverpool Wool Brokers Association.

a/ Jorias, Vicaneres and Kandahars only. (Does not include Rajpootana, Peshawar, Harnai, Bibrak, Jesulmere, Beawar, Marwar, Madras, Bussorah and Karachi whites which are included in "All other".)

Clean medium carpet wools were firm at unchanged prices. Continental yellows were scarce and prices favored the sellers. Jorias and Vicanere whites were in good demand during the entire auction period. Bombay blacks and grays were in limited demand and were difficult to sell. Soft grays, however, were in good demand at firm prices.

The following table shows the prices received for Jorias, Vicanere and Kandahar wools at the auctions held from January 1927 to September 1929.

EAST INDIA WOOL SALES: Average price per pound received at the Liverpool auctions, specified dates, 1927-1929

Date	Whites (superior)			Yellows (superior)			Gray Jcrias
	Jorias	Vicanere	Kandahar	Vicanere	Kandahar		
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	
1927-	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Jan 18	: 44 - 46	: 45 - 50	: 31 - 35	: 32 - 40	: 25 - 27	: 24 - 30	
Mar 7	: 44 - 47	: 47 - 53	: 33 - 37	: 35 - 38	: 25 - 27	: 24 - 30	
Apr 25	: 44 - 48	: 45 - 53	: 33 - 37	: 37 - 39	: 25 - 27	: 26 - 34	
June 14	: 45 - 48	: 47 - 53	: 33 - 37	: 37 - 40	: 25 - 27	: 25 - 33	
July 26	: 46 - 48	: 47 - 51	: 33 - 37	: 38 - 40	: 26 - 28	: 26 - 35	
Sept 12	: 46 - 49	: 47 - 51	: 31 - 36	: 38 - 41	: 26 - 28	: 26 - 32	
Oct 24	: 43 - 47	: 43 - 50	: 32 - 37	: 37 - 40	: 26 - 28	: 26 - 34	
Dec 5	: 41 - 45	: 39 - 46	: 31 - 33	: 35 - 37	: 26 - 28	: 26 - 32	
1928-	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Jan 17	: 44 - 47	: 45 - 49	: 31 - 34	: 37 - 39	: 26 - 28	: 26 - 32	
Mar 5	: 48 - 52	: 45 - 51	: 33 - 35	: 39 - 43	: 26 - 28	: 28 - 35	
Apr 23	: 47 - 51	: 45 - 51	: 33 - 35	: 39 - 43	: 26 - 29	: 28 - 35	
June 12	: 45 - 48	: 43 - 50	: 32 - 35	: 39 - 43	: 26 - 28	: 28 - 36	
July 23	: 42 - 44	: 41 - 47	: 32 - 36	: 39 - 42	: 26 - 28	: 28 - 36	
Sept 11	: 41 - 43	: 41 - 45	: 32 - 36	: 39 - 44	: 26 - 28	: 28 - 35	
Oct 23	: 40 - 43	: 40 - 45	: 32 - 36	: 38 - 40	: 26 - 28	: 27 - 35	
Dec 4	: 41 - 44	: 43 - 47	: 33 - 36	: 38 - 40	: 27 - 29	: 29 - 37	
1929-	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Jan 15	: 41 - 44	: 43 - 47	: 33 - 36	: 40 - 43	: 27 - 29	: 29 - 37	
Mar 4	: 41 - 44	: 44 - 49	: 33 - 36	: 40 - 43	: 27 - 29	: 29 - 35	
Apr 22	: 42 - 44	: 45 - 49	: 33 - 36	: 40 - 44	: 26 - 28	: 29 - 36	
June 4	: 42 - 44	: 44 - 49	: 35 - 36	: 40 - 44	: 26 - 28	: 28 - 34	
July 23	: 41 - 43	: 41 - 47	: 32 - 34	: 39 - 42	: 24 - 26	: 26 - 33	
Sept 9	: 41 - 43	: 43 - 46	: 32 - 34	: 40 - 42	: 25 - 27	: 26 - 33	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Data from Liverpool Wool Brokers Association.

The quantity of wool cataloged at the East India Wool Sales was low, amounting to 22,315 bales compared with 28,717 bales at the July sales, 21,431 bales at the sales held in September last year, and a five-year average for September 1924-1928 of 23,245 bales. The quantity of wool sold was also low, amounting to 18,858 bales compared with 21,372 bales in July and an average of 20,366 bales for the five-year period September 1924-1928.

EAST INDIA WOOL SALES: Quantity of wool cataloged and sold at Liverpool, by countries, 1919-1929

Year	Wool	Wool sold to				Total
	cataloged	United States	United Kingdom	The Continent		
	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales
1919	215,769	22,500	152,002	21,398	195,900	
1920	193,700	7,107	118,907	14,537	140,551	
1921	120,397	35,215	57,883	7,785	100,883	
1922	180,082	98,111	57,822	19,543	175,476	
1923	155,760	36,650	80,874	21,720	139,244	
1924	134,297	52,195	91,472	28,525	172,192	
1925	200,807	55,335	85,394	20,530	161,259	
1926	155,066	44,735	64,989	17,465	127,189	
1927	181,214	47,477	86,094	21,310	154,881	
1928	186,960	50,218	80,633	27,185	158,036	
Jan	17,486	3,810	8,403	2,550	14,763	
Mar	25,225	6,650	13,442	3,810	23,902	
Apr	27,604	8,595	11,784	3,935	24,314	
June ...:	31,286	8,610	12,644	5,055	28,309	
July ...:	23,224	5,475	8,511	3,215	17,201	
Sept ...:	21,431	6,630	7,865	3,130	17,625	
Oct	22,003	6,148	9,395	2,415	17,958	
Dec	18,701	4,300	8,589	3,075	15,964	
1929						
Jan	17,891	3,350	8,251	3,725	15,326	
Mar	26,931	8,230	12,315	4,275	24,820	
Apr	25,041	5,570	10,880	3,705	20,155	
June ...:	19,781	3,445	7,920	3,170	14,535	
July ...:	28,717	6,700	10,892	3,780	21,372	
Sept ...:	22,315	8,000	7,488	3,370	18,858	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Data from Liverpool Wool Brokers Association.

The United States purchased 8,000 bales of wool at the September series compared with 6,700 bales at the July sales, 6,360 at the sales in September 1928, and a five-year average for September 1924-1928 of 7,674 bales. Purchases by the United Kingdom were much lower than at the July sales and amounted to only 7,488 bales compared with 10,892 bales at the previous series.